

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: **April 11, 2005**
05-18

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PRESCRIBED FIRE PLANNED FOR THE WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT IN THE MINK CREEK AREA

Pocatello, Idaho: The Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest will be conducting a prescribed fire, weather permitting, in the Mink Creek area behind the Forest Service Guard Station starting Tuesday, April 12th. Tuesday's burn will consist of burning 50 acres.

The burn is intended to create small openings over a large project area to provide low fuel areas, that in the event of a wildfire, these areas may be used to gain control of the wildfire to help protect private land and residence with in the adjacent area. Signing will notify public when burns are in process to reduce public exposure.

These burns are part of the Portneuf Westbench Project which the White House announced last December as one of ten nationwide pilot projects using the accelerated environmental analysis process proposed by the President's Healthy Forests Initiative.

Ignition of the burn unit will proceed when proper weather and fire behavior conditions are met. Smoke will be noticeable from the south end of town, particularly in the Mink Creek area.